

Remarks

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled.

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (“RCE”). The RCE filing fee is being submitted herewith by Electronic Funds Transfer. Please charge any other fees for entry of this Amendment and RCE to our deposit account no. 03-3415.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 16 and 17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant has cancelled claims 16 and 17, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejection with respect to these claims.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-3, 10-13 and 15-17 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by the Seong (U.S. 6,785,720) patent. Applicant has amended applicant's independent claims 1 and 11, and with respect to these claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a communication control apparatus comprising a first port which connects to a first segment of a network, a second port which connects to a second segment of the network, a CIP header detecting unit configured to detect whether or not an isochronous packet received by the first port includes a CIP (common isochronous packet) header conforming to IEC 61883 standard, and a control unit configured to determine whether or not to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, wherein the control unit enables relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if the CIP header detecting unit detects that the isochronous packet received by the first port does not include a CIP header, and wherein the control unit determines, using the CIP header included in the isochronous packet received by the first port, whether or not

to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if the CIP header detecting unit detects that the isochronous packet received by the first port includes the CIP header. Applicant's independent method claim 11 has been similarly amended.

The constructions recited in applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 11 are not taught or suggested by the cited Seong patent. In particular, there is no mention in the Seong patent of detecting whether or not an isochronous packet received by the first port includes a CIP header conforming to IEC 61883 standard, enabling relaying of the isochronous packet to the second port if it is detected that the isochronous packet does not include the CIP header, and if it is detected that the isochronous packet includes the CIP header, determining whether or not to disable relaying of the isochronous packet using the CIP header included in the packet.

The Seong patent discloses a method of connecting to server devices through a web browser in which the connection to the device is performed based on whether the server device which the user wishes to connect is registered and based on the state of the device. Col. 5, lines 13-18 and 30-67; FIG. 8. Specifically, Seong discloses that it is first checked whether the server device which the user wishes to connect is registered in an identification information storing unit, and if the server device is not registered, then the process is terminated and connection is not performed. Col. 5, lines 30-47; FIG. 8. If it is determined that the device is registered, then the OPCR of the server device is read from the web browser, and by reading A/NA information included in the OPCR of the device, it is determined whether the state of the server device is active. Col. 5, lines 47-67. If it is determined from the A/NA information of the device that the device is active, then the connection is performed (Col. 5, lines 56-62), and if it is determined that the device is inactive, then it is checked whether the selection of the server device to be connected is to be cancelled (Col. 5, lines 62-67).

Thus, in Seong, the connection to the server device, and relaying of packet information, depends on whether the server device is registered in the identification information storing unit and on whether the server device is in an active or an inactive state, based on the A/NA information of the OPCR. There is no mention in the Seong of using CIP header included in the isochronous packet to determine whether or not to disable relaying of the isochronous packet or to refuse connection to the server device. Instead, Seong uses the A/NA information that shows the activity of the server device by showing whether the server device outputs data to the IEEE 1394 bus of the server device, to determine whether or not to enable or refuse connection to the device. There is no indication or suggestion anywhere in the Seong patent that the A/NA information of the OPCR is equivalent to the CIP header of the isochronous packet, or to the information obtained from the CIP header of the isochronous packet.

Moreover, the Seong patent is completely silent as to detecting whether or not the isochronous packet received by the first port includes the CIP header, and makes no mention of what happens with respect to relaying of the isochronous packet, and whether or not connection to the server device is performed, if the isochronous packet does not include a CIP header. Accordingly, the Seong patent does not, and cannot, teach or suggest enabling relaying of the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if it is detected that the isochronous packet received by the first port does not include the CIP header.

Accordingly, applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 11, each of which recites, in one form or another, detecting whether or not an isochronous packet received by the first port includes a CIP header conforming to the IEC 61883 standard, enabling relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if the isochronous packet received by the first port does not include the CIP header, and determining, using the CIP header included in the

isochronous packet received by the first port, whether or not to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by the first port to the second port, if it is detected that the isochronous packet received by the first port includes the CIP header, and their respective dependent claims, patenably distinguish over the cited Seong patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patenably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



COWAN, LIEBOWITZ & LATMAN, P. C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
T (212) 790-9200

Anastasia Zhadina
Reg. No. 48,544
An Attorney of Record